



**GIVE-IT-BAG:** Tracy-Lee de Wet, Dr Phillip Ruther, Give-it-bag owner Regina Borth and Big Issue vendor Michael Motomane.



Tai Ken Ting of the Tutu Tester and Big Issue vendor Penny Ridout fill in the paperwork.



Asanda Tyabule



Mandisa Dyabhoji is tested by Elizabeth Thebus from the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation.



Barman Vlad Klaic of Thirst mixes the perfect berry cocktail.



Nomyuselele Gobingca



Xoliswa Ntunta



Kholiswa Nqalathi



A Big Issue vendor is tested for TB.

## Big test at The Big Issue

By Nikki van Coller

The Big Issue office in Woodstock was buzzing with energy one Friday at the end of June, as the Tutu Foundation's Tutu Tester Mobile Clinic pulled up outside. The nurses and counsellors then spent the day with us testing The Big Issue vendors—and staff—for TB, HIV and diabetes.

The day formed part of The Big Issue's Vendor Support and Development Programme, as well as "Action 10", an initiative by Cape Town bag manufacturers Give-it-bag, who not only produce funky bags made from recycled polyethylene food bags, but have as part of their business strategy decided to put 50% of all profits into charity actions.

Regina Borth, owner of Give-it-bag, says it makes perfect business sense. "We encourage business owners to arrange the Tutu Testers for the people who help them to grow their companies. We wanted Action 10 to be a big one, and when the opportunity came to do testing for Big Issue vendors, we knew it was a perfect fit. And this proves how easy it is for companies to assist their staff with health matters."

The day began with a talk by exercise and nutrition coach Ian Craig about health, TB and HIV, as well as a short talk

on the importance of the correct nutrition. A translator ensured nobody missed a single detail and each participant received a handout with nutrition tips. Vendors were then individually tested for TB, HIV and diabetes in the Tutu Tester's mobile clinic and Tutu Foundation counsellors were available to counsel anyone who needed it. Vendors were also welcome to consult with Cape Town holistic practitioner Dr Philip Ruther, who was on hand to answer any health-related questions. Give-it-Bag also arranged for Thirst Bar Service to set up a mobile cocktail bar and kept the non-alcoholic, energising cocktails flowing all day.

Once their individual testing and counselling was completed, the vendors each received a bag containing plenty of goodies, including a blanket, soap and several food items, courtesy of Give-it-bag.

Thank you to Regina Borth and Tracy-Lee de Wet from Give-it-Bag for initiating and arranging the event, as well as the Thirst Cocktail Bar, Dr Philip Ruther and Ian Craig.

And mostly of course, we thank the Tutu Foundation for providing this vital service at no cost and in a way that was both sensitive and high-spirited. **TBI**

VENDOR SUPPORT | Health



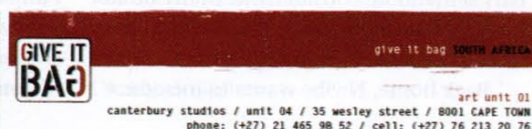
Nondumiso Zigana



Cynthia Gogotya



Ntombekhaya Phadle



Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation  
Masibambane Ngezandla